



**COLORADO**

Department of Early Childhood

# Department of Early Childhood Joint Health Committee Presentation

January 27, 2022

# Why Early Childhood?

- The quality of a child's experiences in the first five years of life helps shape how the brain develops
- Benefits of quality programs extend not only to the child - but the family as well
- Research shows that ECE reduces percentage of children repeating a grade & increases graduation rates - ROI of \$5 to \$9 for every dollar spent



# HB 21-1304: Early Childhood System

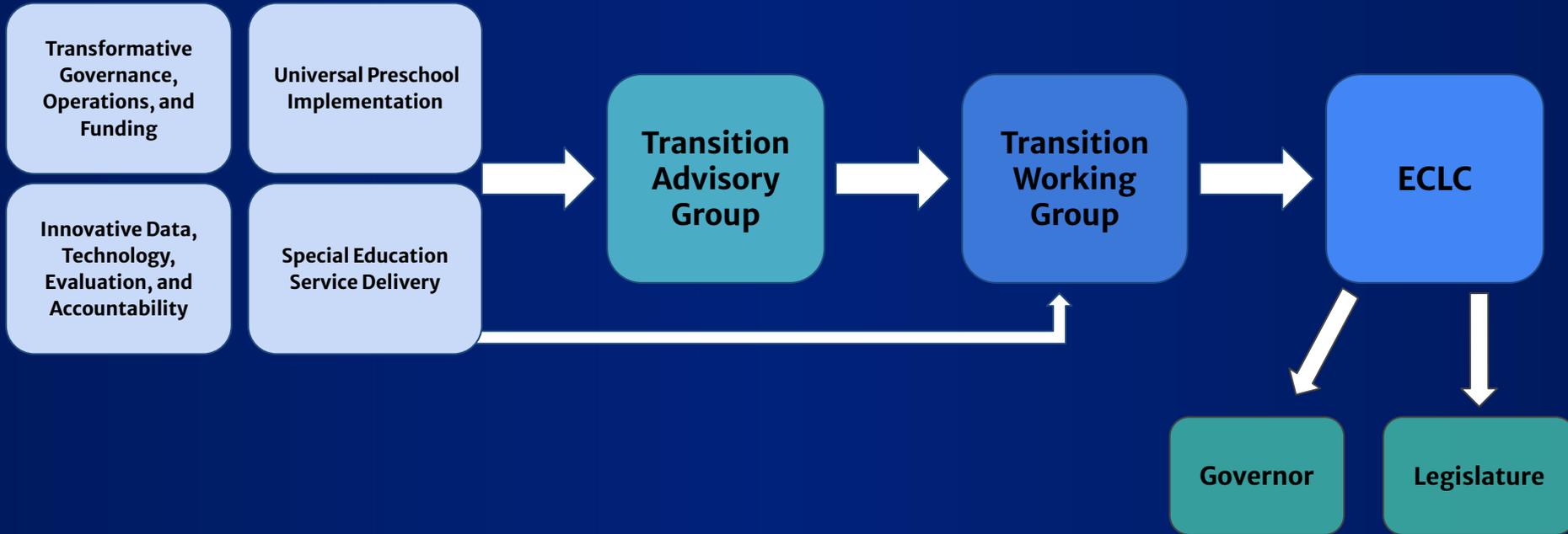
HB 21-1304 (Sirota, Garnett, Buckner, Fenberg) introduced to create the Department of Early Childhood to:

- Coordinate the availability of early childhood programs & services
- Establish state & community partnerships for the mixed delivery of early childhood programs
- Prioritize the interests & of children, parents, providers & community in the delivery of early childhood programs & services
- Unify the administration of early childhood programs and services

Passed unanimously by the Senate and by a 2 to 1 margin in the House

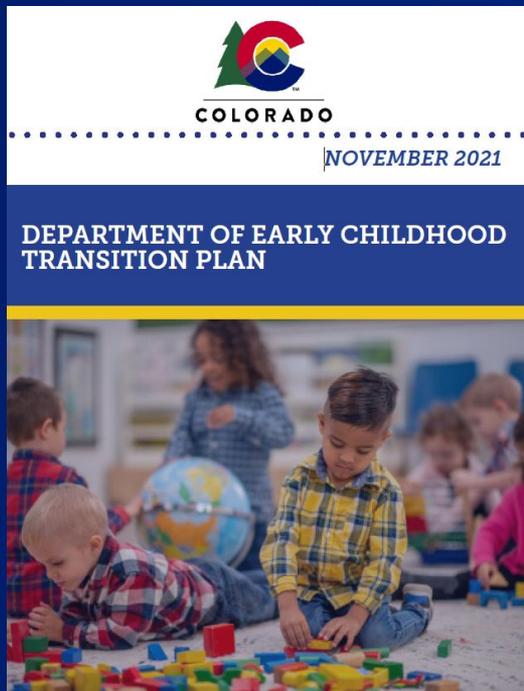


# Department of Early Childhood Transition Process



# Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan & Colorado Universal Preschool Recommendations

## Transition Reports



# Overview of Transition Report Recommendations

The transition report covers the following topics:

- Vision, Mission, Values, and Guiding Principles
- Governance
- Structure of DEC
- Programs and Services to Transition to DEC Beginning July 2022
- Fiscal Structures and Funding Transition to DEC Beginning July 2022
- Re-evaluation of Transition by July 2025
- Ongoing Alignment and Collaboration with Other State Agencies
- Blending and Braiding Funding
- Technology and Data Systems
- Early Childhood Workforce



# Universal Preschool Recommendations



Building and strengthening early childhood infrastructure



Simple and unified application process



Eligibility and prioritization



Quality and evaluation standards



ECE workforce



Special education

# Department of Early Childhood Budget Requests

November 1, 2021

Department of Early  
Childhood  
Administration Request  
(20 total FTE, \$13M)

December 10, 2021

Universal Preschool  
Information Technology  
Request (\$3.5M)

January 3, 2022

Department of Early Childhood  
Administration Supplemental  
Request (3.0 FTE for 6 staff for  
6 months, \$552k)

Zero cost Transfer of Early  
Childhood Programs from CDHS  
& CDE to CDEC Long Bill

Early Childhood Foundations  
and Universal Preschool  
Administration (10.0 FTE,  
\$722k)

# CDEC Website - cdec.colorado.gov



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The Department of Early Childhood will launch July 1, 2022. This page serves as a resource for information related to the transition to the new Department in advance of the launch. Until the Department of Early Childhood opens, please continue to use the [Office of Early Childhood Website](#) for early childhood related services.

## Next Steps



# THANK YOU!

[m.michael.cooke@state.co.us](mailto:m.michael.cooke@state.co.us)  
[tova.cohen@state.co.us](mailto:tova.cohen@state.co.us)